

this bill will have only a minimal impact in this area. I would like to remind my colleagues that: unlike state-sponsored gaming operations, Indian gaming is highly regulated by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; before gaming can be conducted, the tribes must reach an agreement with the state in which the gaming would be conducted; under IGRA (the Indian Gaming and Regulatory Act) gaming can only be conducted on land held in trust by the federal government; and any gaming profits can only be used for tribal development, such as water and sewer systems, schools, and housing.

The point I want to make is even if an Indian group wanted to obtain recognition to start a gambling operation, they couldn't do it just for that purpose. Ninety percent of the substance of the current criteria are unchanged in the bill before us today. For a group to obtain federal recognition, it would still have to prove its origins, cultural heritage, existence of governmental structure, and everything else currently required.

Should that burden be overcome, a tribe would need a reservation or land held in trust by the federal government. This bill makes no effort to provide land to any group being recognized.

If the land issue is overcome, under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a tribe cannot conduct gaming operations unless it has an agreement to do so with the state government. A prior Congress put this into the law in an effort to balance the rights of the states to control gambling activity within its borders, and the rights of sovereign tribal nations to conduct activities on their land. The difficulty in obtaining gaming compacts with states made the national news for months last year because of the almost absolute veto power the states have under current law. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed this reading of the law in *Seminole Tribe of Florida v. Florida*, 517 U.S. 44 (1996).

I want to emphasize this point—this is not a gambling bill, this is a bill to create a fair, objective process by which Indian groups can be evaluated for possible federal recognition.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not perfect in every form, but it is the result of many hours of consultations. I have sought to work with the tribes and with the Administration to come up with sound, careful changes that recognize the historical struggles the unrecognized tribes have gone through, yet at the same time recognizes the hard work the Bureau of Indian Affairs has done lately in making positive changes through regulations to address these problems. We have reached agreement on almost every major issue, and these changes have been incorporated into this bill.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I hope we can take final action on the issue of Indian recognition before this century ends and start the next century by addressing at least some of the wrongs of the past two centuries.

BANNING UNSECURED LOANS IN FEDERAL CAMPAIGNS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, we must restore accountability to our elections. One

way we can do this is to close a loophole where candidates may obtain unlimited, unsecured loans from banks to finance their campaigns. Banks are able to bankroll their chosen candidates by obtaining a mere signature on a loan form without obtaining security for repayment, as is customary in their normal course of business. In effect, candidates favored by a bank and its officers are given an unfair advantage.

The legislation I have introduced today puts an end to that. Under this legislation, banks will no longer be able to circumvent the current prohibition against making direct contributions to candidates.

Specifically, this legislation: prohibits all federal candidates from receiving an unsecured loan; requires repayment of any existing unsecured loan within 90 days of this bill's enactment; and prohibits candidates who have such unsecured loans from accepting personal funds from a board member or officer of the bank holding the loan.

I urge my colleagues to join me in closing this loophole. Let's not allow banks to bankroll any election. This ability of banks, using depositors' money to advance money to a chosen candidate is wrong and invites corruption. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor my legislation that outlaws this practice.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). My bill would remove the authority for contracting oversight from the purview of the Environmental Protection Agency and place it solely under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, this change makes sense given the expertise of each agency. The Army Corps of Engineers is far better suited to handle contracting work and oversight of construction at a Superfund site than the more technical, environmental orientation of the EPA.

The reason why I am introducing this legislation today is in direct response to an incident that happened in my district during an already lengthy and tumultuous cleanup. Hopefully, passage of this legislation will prevent future situations, such as the one I am about to describe, from happening again.

The asbestos dump site in Millington, NJ is comprised of two residential farms and part of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Reserve. It contains large amounts of asbestos that was dumped on the property. On one of these two residential sites, the homeowners (a family of five), were involved in a lengthy clean-up with the EPA and had been relocated several times, for months at a time. The EPA had contracted out for the construction of the design. The EPA's contractor then hired a subcontractor, with a less than perfect track history, to complete construction of the design.

The EPA subcontractors, instead of bringing in clean fill to top the asbestos on the family's property, brought in contaminated soil from another site. This horrendous mistake has added additional years to the cleanup.

Mr. Speaker, again, I believe that the Army Corps is far better equipped to handle the details of the physical cleanup and to oversee the contracting work of these Superfund sites. This mistake in Millington added not only time and money, but additional grief for a family who wanted nothing less than to raise their children in the home of their dreams. I believe that my bill would prevent more situations like this and improve the efficiency of site cleanups.

MILOSEVIC DEFIES INTERNATIONAL
NATIONAL COMMUNITY ON
KOSOVO

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend we once again heard of despicable, unspeakable crimes committed by Serbian police against unarmed men, women, and children. More than 40 ethnic Albanians were murdered in cold blood in the village of Racak in southern Kosovo. Now, in further defiance, Milosevic has ordered Ambassador William Walker, the American diplomat who heads the OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) to leave Serbia.

Milosevic's actions represent a complete rupture of the agreement he reached with Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, an agreement that led to the withdrawal of a NATO threat to bomb Serbia. Unless the international community responds to these acts, our word and our credibility will be deemed to be utterly worthless, and Milosevic will believe he can commit further atrocities with impunity.

I returned yesterday with a senior Congressional delegation that I led to meet with our friends and allies in Europe. We were briefed by General Wes Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, who told us that Milosevic will never respond to anything other than the credible threat of force. General Clark is at present in Belgrade awaiting a meeting to deliver a strong message to Milosevic.

If Milosevic does not immediately fully comply with the agreement he made with Ambassador Holbrooke, the international community must respond swiftly and forcefully. We must not allow the situation in Kosovo to continue to deteriorate, nor allow the humanitarian situation there to return to the point of disaster that we experienced last summer.

INDIA REPUBLIC DAY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most important dates on the calendar for the people of India, as well as for the people of Indian descent who have